

Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright Attends Sarcoidosis Support Group at Mather Hospital

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Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright recently joined the members of a local sarcoidosis support group to listen as the group discussed issues and concerns surrounding the disease. Sarcoidosis, also known as sarcoid, is a disease involving abnormal collections of inflammatory cells that can form as nodules in multiple organs.

Sarcoidosis is frequently referred to as "the snowflake disease" because it can present differently for every patient.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting was the frequent misdiagnosis of the disease. Additionally, sarcoidosis has a perceived low mortality rate because the deaths of sarcoidosis patients are often attributed to other diseases or conditions. The group discussed how the perceived low mortality rate can affect coverage of the disease in the media and make it difficult to find funding for research. The Brookhaven Sarcoidosis Support Group, known as Sarcoidosis of Long Island, meets monthly, every third Sunday, at Mather Hospital. The group founder, Frank Rivera, has struggled with sarcoidosis for over ten years but has a positive outlook; "sarcoidosis is what I have not what I am," he said.

"I appreciated the opportunity to join Sarcoidosis of Long Island and learn about this disease and how we can help to raise awareness about it," stated Councilwoman Cartright. "I am looking forward to participating in Sarcodosis awareness events in the future."

"Sarcoidosis is a disease that has been ignored way too long." Mr. Rivera stated, "too many Sarcoidosis patients are being ignored or dismissed by doctors and the public. We need to recognize Sarcoidosis as a real disease with and need to find a cause and cure. If you have questions please contact us at www.sarcoidosisofli.com."

The Brookhaven Group will host a walk in April and the annual 5K fundraiser in August. All proceeds go to sarcoidosis research and patient support. For additional information about sarcoidosis, visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sarc/> and the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research at <http://www.stopsarcoidosis.org>.

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